



USAID | AFGHANISTAN

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FACT SHEET

Kunduz Province

OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support for Kunduz from January 2002 – December 2010: \$114.9 million

Estimated population: 883,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2008 – 2009)

Capital: Kunduz

Note: German-led PRT



Kunduz lies on Afghanistan's northern Turkman plain and is bordered by Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to the north. The Hindu Kush mountain range feeds water to the province from the south, which has rejuvenated the province's strong, grain-producing agricultural economy and helped Kunduz escape the drought affecting most of the country. In the 1960s, Kunduz was home to the Spinzar Cotton Company, which helped to make it one of the wealthiest provinces in Afghanistan. Although the factory is no longer in operation, Kunduz maintains steadily improving infrastructure with a plentiful water supply and high level of literacy. Despite these achievements, problems in the region persist as returning refugees have found their homes destroyed, and roads to the province remain in poor condition and heavily mined. One of the most densely populated regions in Afghanistan, Kunduz's mainly Tajik population speaks Dari.

AGRICULTURE

Goal: Increase agricultural sector jobs and income through a) increased agricultural productivity by increasing farmer access to inputs and effective extension services; b) invigorated agribusiness by increasing linkages between farmers, markets, credit, and trade corridors; and c) rehabilitated watersheds and improved irrigation infrastructure. Also, increase Afghans' confidence in their government by increased Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock's (MAIL) capacity to deliver services and promote the private sector and farmer associations through direct budget and technical assistance.

Summary: USAID focuses on preparing farmers to participate in a modern agricultural economy through improved agricultural opportunities, veterinary services, improved irrigation, and training.

Ongoing Activities:

- Identify appropriate agricultural technologies to increase agricultural productivity in areas subject to seasonal drought and high risks of land degradation, deforestation, or loss of biodiversity
- Build roads and irrigation, and construct flood protection
- Train farmers on commercial vegetables, oilseeds, rice, feed crops, high-value crops, grapes, timber, fruit and nut orchards and nurseries, and improved livestock practices
- Increase the economic viability and capacity of agricultural related input supplier businesses

Accomplishments:

- Repaired flood damage and installed flood protection for Khanabad Dam and rehabilitated Chardar Canal to provide a consistent water supply to farmers
- Funded a micro-credit institution to extend loans to agribusinesses, enabling growth in the agriculture and commercial sectors



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- Installed an AgNet Internet communications system and weather station in the provincial MAIL office, providing access to the National Agriculture Information System database
- Trained the provincial AgNet officer, who now collects and transmits local weather, market price, and agricultural production data to ministry headquarters and local farmers
- Increased economic opportunities for 5,300 women through poultry production and management training, and built market linkages to sell surplus eggs
- Distributed seed and fertilizer vouchers to more than 55,000 farmers
- Improved farm practices, including use of improved seed varieties and fertilizer, adoption of greenhouse technology, grain post-harvest storage and processing, and improved irrigation and crop management
- Established village-based seed enterprises to produce reliable seeds for food production
- Rehabilitated 55.9 km of primary and secondary roads in Imam Sahib District and 24 km of secondary roads in Khan Abad District to improve farm-to-market access
- Rehabilitated 60 km of irrigation canals to provide farmers with water needed to produce healthy crops
- Established the Kunduz Flour Mill, which now processes wheat provided by approximately 6,000 farmers
- Trained 29 Afghan government officials from the MAIL, the National Environmental Protection Agency, and other related organizations on community-based natural resource management practices
- Provided off-farm business skills trainings to 477 individuals working in different micro-enterprises
- Constructed a dairy processing plant, operated by the Dairy Farmers Association, which strengthened the province's dairy industry and provides nutritious food for citizens
- Established 11 veterinary field units, delivering more than three million vaccinations and other medications for livestock
- Established the Afghan Cashmere Supply Company to promote the cashmere trade, which has a regional office in Kunduz
- Brought 286,000 hectares of land under improved natural resource management and trained 63 staff of the provincial Agriculture Department and Kuchi herders in natural resource management as part of an ongoing natural resource management initiative
- Trained 17 para-veterinarians
- Co-hosted Kunduz Province's first Agriculture Trade Fair in June 2008 for 35,000 participants, bringing buyers and sellers together to increase sales of Afghan agricultural products and services

DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE

Goal: Build the capacity of government institutions to improve the quality of government services to Afghan citizens. Support independent media institutions and advocacy groups.

Summary: USAID builds the capacity of government institutions and civil society in Kunduz Province through activities that include support to the justice sector, media, and civil society.

Ongoing Activities:

- Support two radio stations in Kunduz established by USAID
- Train provincial and district-level civil servants in the five common functions highlighted in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy: financial management, human resources management, procurement, project management, and strategy and policy development
- Embed technical advisors in provincial line departments, who provide on-the-job training to civil servants to increase service delivery



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- Support the Radio Jaihoon station in Imam Sahib, and the Radio Zohra station in Kunduz with program funding and technical support as part of a national network of local radio stations that broadcast independent national satellite programming from Salam Watandar
- Support the Educational and Training Center for Poor Women and Girls of Afghanistan, which will organize community dialogues, run resource centers, monitor grantees, and provide capacity building to target civil-society organizations
- Provide capacity building, training, and small grants to eight Afghan civil-society organizations showing potential to be sustainable, effective organizations in the province
- Train Provincial Council Members on the council's legal rights, monitoring, and oversight, and getting them to communicate with the constituents and represent them with government entities
- Provide \$25,000/month through the Performance Based Governors Fund for governors to cover operational expenditures and facilitate community-outreach projects

Accomplishments:

- Supported the development of the justice sector through the publication and distribution of judicial reference laws
- Developed and trained judges and court administrators in the Afghanistan Court Administration System
- Provided core skills and ethics training for judges allowing them to better officiate over the courts
- Promoted legal and human rights awareness, including women's rights, through public education campaigns in a variety of media, and provided institutional, capacity-building training to civil-society organizations
- Supported the 2010 voter registration update exercise; assisted domestic and international observation missions, trained political parties and candidate poll agents, conducted a series of poll surveys ahead of the 2010 election, and provided civic education and media outreach activities for broad-based participation to promote a democratically-elected government
- Provided small grants to civil-society organizations to promote peace-building practices, women's rights, human rights, and community mediation and conflict analysis
- Supported the Zanan-e-Khoshroo Council for awareness on the women's rights project
- Supported the Enjeel Association of United Sisters for a citizen's platform for gender equality project
- Provided training and support to provincial councils, which improved professionalism, knowledge, and skills, resulting in more effective and transparent leadership
- Facilitated consensus-building efforts through civic-education training and dialogue sessions with mullahs and Sharia scholars
- Created a series of radio outreach programs including a radio roundtable series between Members of Parliament and citizens in the province
- Assisted committees and concerned Members of Parliament in understanding the provincial budgeting process
- Supported voter registration, assisted domestic and international observation missions, trained political parties and independent poll agents, conducted a series of poll surveys, and supported the 2009 presidential and provincial council elections

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Goal: Promote a thriving, legal economy led by the private sector.



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Summary: USAID promotes economic development in Kunduz Province through automating banking services, reorganizing land titling documentation, expanding access to telecommunications, and supporting business associations.

Ongoing Activities:

- Provide marketplace development grants to improve bazaars
- Assist Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) northeast zone office to implement financial sector supervisory and economic research and analysis functions, strengthening DAB regional contributions to core central bank functions
- Provide support to the revenue reconciliation team of the Kunduz Mustofiat, centered on accurate revenue collection posting and reporting to center
- Promote improved cash management operations with regard to availability and quality of bank notes in circulation

Accomplishments:

- Installed six District Communications Network centers, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, Internet, and photocopying services to both the district government officials and the public.
- Implemented an automated Core Banking System (CBS), provided additional communications technology and training for bank staff, and expanded and refurbished the provincial branch of DAB that operates as the paying agent for the government and disburses all social, payroll, and procurement payments (services such as these increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the social and economic infrastructure of Afghanistan, contributing to the development of the public and private sectors)
- Performed the merger of the DAB Kunduz branch CBS system with the head office, permitting real time inter-branch payment transfers (with the head office of five additional merged branches) and strengthening DAB consolidated financial management and reporting capabilities
- Installed the Revenue Reconciliation and Accounting database in the Kunduz Mustofiat, which has dramatically reduced processing times of Afghan government revenue receipts, production on revenue reports, and uploading into the consolidated Ministry of Finance Financial Management System
- Established the Afghanistan Central Business Registry (ACBR) office
- Constructed a border crossing post in Sher Kan Bandar, which provided the necessary infrastructure for proper customs control and enforcement
- Trained radio, television, and print journalists on the value of trade and trade issues in order to encourage more and better coverage of trade-related issues
- Provided training for customs staff on exemptions, valuation, tariffs, certificates of origin, smuggling, penalties, and preparation of trade statistics to build a professional, modern customs authority
- Reorganized land titling documentation at the Makhzan court register with new cost-efficient technology, resulting in easier access for Afghans to their property documents (before the reorganization, the land administration office was unable to properly document land transfers, provide proof of ownership documents, or prevent the registration of fraudulent deeds)
- Formalized land ownership in Kunduz and updated the map of the entire city of Kunar to expand tenure formalization activities (the first of its kind in Afghanistan, the mapping process included the purchase of recent satellite imagery, collection of GPS ground control points, and the on-screen digitization of more than 50,000 property parcels; it will facilitate the implementation of the master city plan developed by the Ministry of Urban Development and has improved land tenure security for residents)



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- Transferred the assets, liabilities, employees, and all rights and obligations of the Kunduz branch of the Committee of Central Authority for Water Supply and Sewerage to the Afghan Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Corporation that will lead to better water and sanitation services for the people of Kunduz
- Supported the Afghan Carpet Exporters Guild and Kunduz Fish Farm Association in developing by-laws and services for their members
- Provide private sector economic opportunities through small grants to three business associations, including the Jewelers' Guild of Kunduz Province
- Trained 314 small and medium enterprises and associations in business management and development, and financed a public-private partnership for the development and empowerment of the Afghan dairy sector
- Trained and provided work opportunities to 49 students to date under a capacity-building internship program to build the professional skills of Kunduz's future business and government leaders
- Promoted economic expansion and rural enterprise development through micro-credit lending and loans to small and medium enterprises
- Supported 370 small and medium-sized businesses including the Afghanistan Cashmere Supply Corporation, a major wholesaler of processed cashmere and buyer of raw cashmere from central and eastern Afghanistan
- Disbursed more than \$10.6 million in microfinance and small-business loans through USAID-funded financial institutions

EDUCATION

Goal: Improve the quality of basic education through improved teacher quality and increased availability of primary school textbooks; improve the quality of higher education; improve the livelihoods of urban and rural communities through increased literacy and employability instruction.

Summary: USAID supports educational improvements in Kunduz Province through two national education programs. USAID has provided radio-based teacher support programs, provided literacy and vocational schools training, printed textbooks, trained education faculty professors, and constructed and/or refurbished schools.

Ongoing Activities:

- Support a radio-based teacher support program to improve teachers' skills and performance in the classroom
- Offer an 18-month program in literacy and productive skills for youth and adults in 48 communities through 192 literacy centers
- Work with the faculty of education to improve the teaching skills of professors through training in pedagogy, subject knowledge, computer literacy, English, institutional development, leadership, management, administration, professional attitudes, and teacher standards
- Sponsor higher education opportunities in Afghanistan and abroad (one faculty member is currently enrolled in the Afghan master's program in Kabul, another in a master's program in the United States, and two will complete study tours on university administrative systems)
- Continue textbook support

Accomplishments:

- Established 192 literacy centers for 4,800 youth and adults (77 percent female) in 48 communities
- Constructed 38 schools



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- Printed more than 2.4 million textbooks
- Provided educational opportunities for more than 7,300 Kunduz residents with no formal education
- Introduced a Teacher Standards Program and a Standards Working Committee
- Established a Professional Development Center at the university

HEALTH

Goal: Improve the access to and quality of health services and increase the abilities of individuals, families, and communities to protect their health.

Summary: USAID's principal health investments in Kunduz Province come through nationwide programs, including support for health and family-planning products and a provision of refresher training courses for nurses and physicians.

Ongoing Activities:

- Fund the Diseases Early Warning System for 14 routine conditions/diseases in five sentinel sites
- Support social marketing of health and family planning products (such as contraceptives, water purification agents, and oral rehydration salts for diarrhea) through 229 private-sector outlets
- Introduce a quality improvement collaborative between hospitals and health facilities to share best practices for reducing maternal and neonatal mortality
- Train community health worker trainers and community health supervisors, and orient new non-government organization staff, to expand the use of post-partum family planning

Accomplishments:

- Trained 20,400 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare in the province

INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal: Improve infrastructure to create licit economic opportunities, promote freedom of movement, and facilitate delivery of government and social services.

Summary: The infrastructure program in Kunduz Province focused on improving roads while building the capacity of local workers and supporting the provincial economy through the use of locally available materials.

Ongoing Activities:

- Prepare to conduct a water activity in Khanabad District

Accomplishments:

- Built the 2.2 km Archi District Center Road, the 1.7 km Imam Sahib District Center Road, and the 19.1 km Imam Sahib Connector Road, shortening travel time, opening economic opportunities, and providing access to health services and educational institutions

STABILIZATION

Goal: Improve stability, extend the reach of the Afghan government, and promote stabilization efforts that lay the groundwork for medium- to long-term development activities.



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Summary: USAID creates linkages and builds confidence between communities and the local government through small-scale infrastructure, training, and community development projects.

Current Activities:

- Support community-level labor intensive programs that improve city infrastructure, support community development priorities, and offer temporary employment (wages earned through these public and community works projects enable the urban poor to support themselves and their families)

Accomplishments:

- Provided 50 days of employment for 5,000 men and 561 women through more than 150 small-scale infrastructure activities, with an aim to strengthen the income and improve the livelihoods of poor households
- Provided assistance for 57 war-affected families (including assistance kits and small business start-ups) related to the August 4, 2009, airstrike in Chardara District
- Provided tailored assistance to fit the circumstances of 137 war-affected families